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Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 AID-20 TRSE-00 DRC-01

/165 W
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P R 171713Z SEP 73
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 94
INFO CINCPAC PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6271

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, KS, US
SUBJECT: SIXTH ANNUAL SECURITY CONSULTATIVE MEETING

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

JOINT EMBASSY COMUSK MESSSAGE

SUMMAR: SIXTH ANNUAL SECURITY CONSULTATIVE
WAS CONDUCTED IN SEOUL SEPTEMBER 12-13 IN
RELAXED AND CORDIAL ATMOSPHERE AND PROGRESSED SMOOTHLY
THROUGHOUT WITHOUT SURPRISES AND TO MUTUAL
SATISFACTION BOTH SIDES. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING AIRPORT ARRIVAL CEREMONIES AND DAY
AND A HALF IN WHICH DEPUTY SECRETARY CLEMENTS VISITED US AND KOREAN
TROOP UNITS AND OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST, 1973 SCM
OPENED WITH EXCHANGE OF WIDE RANGING STATEMENTS
BY MR. CLEMENTS AND KOREAN DEFENSE MINISTER YU JAE JUNG
REAFFIRMING PRINCIPLES OF US/ROK SECURITY RELATIONS.
US SIDE LED OFF SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION WITH ANALYSIS OF
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NORTH KOREAN THREAT PREPARED AT CINCPAC, WHICH CONCLUDED:

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1, THAT "NORTH KOREA SHOWS NO APPARENT INTENTION OF VIOLATING THE TRUCE"; AND 2, THAT DUE PRIMARILY TO LOGISTICAL CONSTRAINTS ON NORTH AND UNLIKELIHOOD OF RESUPPLY FROM CHINA AND USSR IN ERA OF DETENTE, NET COMBAT ADVANTAGE NOW RESTS WITH ROKS. ROKS THEN TOOK UP REMAINDER OF FIRST DAY'S SESSION AND MUCH OF SECOND WITH READING OF POSITION PAPER. PRESENTATION OUTLINED SOUTH KOREAN POSITIONS ON SERIOUS THREAT POSED BY NORTH KOREA, THEIR OWN WEAK AIR DEFENSE CAPABILITY AND DECLINING OPERATIONAL READINESS DUE SHORTAGES IN O AND M FUNDS, AND NEED FOR CONTINUING US TROOP PRESENCE AND SUPPORT FOR MOD PLAN, O AND M, AND RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT IN DEFENSE INDUSTRIES AREA.

2. MR. CLEMENTS FOR US SIDE RESPONDED WITH BRIEF STANDARD POLICY STATEMENTS ON TREATY COMMITMENTS AND TROOP PRESENCE. HE STATED THAT IT WAS CLEAR AND PLAN WOULD HAVE TO BE STRETCHED OUT, PROMISED THAT USG WOULD DO BEST IT COULD TO MEET PLANNED GOALS, AND CALLED FOR JOINT STAFF LEVEL REVIEW OF PRIORITIES WITHIN PLAN. DEPUTY SECRETARY FOREWARNED ROKS ON O AND M THAT WHILE WE WOULD DO WHAT WE COULD KOREA SHOULD NOT COUNT ON REACHING FY 74 O AND M CEILIING, RATHER ROKG SHOULD CONTINUE COMMENDABLE PROGRESS TOWARD SELF-SUFFICIENCY AND ABSORPTION THESE COSTS. WITH REGARD DEFENSE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, MR. CLEMENTS WELCOMED ROK EFFORTS, INDICATED US WOULD CONTINUE TO PROVIDE APPROPRIATE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, AND SUGGESTED JOINT EFFORT TO BRING TOGETHER AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY AND KOREAN INDUSTRY TO DEVELOP DEFENSE INDUSTRY CAPABLE SUPPORTING KOREA'S DEFENSE REQUIREMENTS.

3. IN PRIVATE SESSION BETWEEN MINISTER YU AND MR. CLEMENTS ON LAST AFTERNOON OF CONFERENCE MR. CLEMENTS PROMISED USG WOULD LOOK INTO POSSIBILITY ENCOURAGING US FIRMS TO COOPERATE IN JOINT VENTURES IN EFFORT BUILD UP KOREAN DEFENSE INDUSTRY, POINTING OUT AT SAME TIME THAT ROKG WOULD HAVE TO OFFER COMMERCIALLY ACCEPTABLE TERMS TO THESE FIRMS TO ATTRACT THEM. IN RESPONSE MINISTER YU'S PERSISTANT QUESTIONS DEPUTY
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SECRETARY REITERATED STATEMENTS IN OPEN SESSION THAT THERE WAS NO WAY HE COULD GIVE POSITIVE AND FIRM TIME FRAME ON MOD PLAN AND O AND M BECAUSE OF CONGRESSIONAL UNCERTAINTIES. MINISTER YU INDICATED ROKG WOULD BE RECONCILED TO $15 MILLION LEVEL IN FY 75 AND ZERO LEVEL THEREAFTER. THE MINISTER SAID KOREANS WOJLD GET TOGETHER SHORTLY WITH US STAFF LEVELS ON MOD PLAN PRIORITIES AND

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AIR DEFENSE.

4. CONSENSUS AT CONCLUSION OF MEETING WAS THAT BOTH SIDES ACHIEVED RESPECTIVE PURPOSES. WHILE HOPING US POSIIONS ON MOD PLAN AND O AND M IN PARTICULAR MIGHT BE MORE FORTHCOMING, KOREANS ALREADY UNDERSTOOD US POSITION PRIOR OPENING OF MEETING AND ACCEPTED WITH LITTLE DISCUSSION DEPUTY SECRETARY CLEMENTS SYMPATHETIC BUT NONETHELESS FIRM EXPLANATION OF REALITIES IN CONGRESS AND LIMITS ON US ASSISTANCE. KOREANS PRINCIPAL INTEREST SEEMED TO BE THAT MEETING BE HELD AND THAT IT GO OFF SMOOTHLY. ONLY SIGNIFICANT DISAGREEMENT OCCURRED WHEN ROK CHIEF OF STAFF HAN SHIN QUESTIONED US THREAT ASSESSMENT IN WHAT HE HIMSELF CHARACTERIZED AS "STRAIGHT FORWARD, SOLDIERLY" FASHION. DISCUSSION ENDED WHEN ADMIRAL MOORER RESPONDED WITH SUGGESTION THAT THIS WAS QUESTION STAFFS COULD PURSUE.

5. FULL TRANSCRIPT SCM SESSIONS BEING FORWARDED THROUGH DEFENSE CHANNELS. DEPUTY ASSISATNAT SECRETARY DEFENSE DENNIS DOOLIN HANDCARRYING MEMCONS OF PRIVATE SESSION BETWEEN MR. CLEMENTS AND MINISTER YU AND MR. CLEMENTS COURTESY CALL ON PRESIDENT PARK HELD MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 12.
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